

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for immunizing a subject comprising:

administering an immunizing effective amount of a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid,

wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 13 comprising further administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 15 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for immunizing a subject comprising:

administering an immunizing effective amount of a vector comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid,

wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 15 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claims 17-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus comprising:

administering an effective amount of a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid to augment the cellular immune response to the virus,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 21 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 23 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus comprising:

administering an effective amount of a vector comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid to augment the cellular immune response to the virus,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 23 further comprising administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claims 25-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (new): A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process, and

wherein the budding mediating motif consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PTAP (SEQ ID NO:1), PPX₁Y (SEQ ID NO:2), YX₂X₃L (SEQ ID NO:3) and a combination thereof.

Claim 30 (new): The DNA molecule of Claim 29, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 31 (new): A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 29.

Claim 32 (new): A composition comprising the vector of Claim 31.

Claim 33 (new): A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 29.

Claim 34 (new): A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid, wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process, and wherein the budding mediating motif comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PPX₁Y (SEQ ID NO:2), YX₂X₃L (SEQ ID NO:3) and a combination thereof; wherein X₁ is not P.

Claim 35 (new): The DNA molecule of Claim 34, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 36 (new): A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 34.

Claim 37 (new): A composition comprising the vector of Claim 36.

Express Mail No.: EV 553 779 913 US

Serial No.: 10/814,689
Atty. Docket No.: 502615.20013

Claim 38 (new): A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 34.